

The inspection of multiple pieces can also be an interesting study so if you are lucky enough to have some multiples of this perfins (they are not too common) look at them to see if they add anything to the fund of knowledge. Figure 5 shows a pair, which turn out to be 0120.03 and 0120.03a. This shows that these two different perfins were made by the same double or multiple die perfining machine, figure 6 shows a block of 0120.10 and give us the chance to guess at the type of perforating machine in use. The horizontal rows of perfins are in line with each other but not parallel with the stamp perforations or each other so we can see that the machine used perforated a line of stamps (probably 10 or 12) at a time before the sheet was moved up to perforate the next row. Figure 7 is a block of six Jubilee issues and inspection of the alignment of the perfins on the individual stamps shows that they are all very well aligned with each other. This indicates either a very careful operator of the machine or, more likely, the use of a multiple head perforator which perforated a block of stamps in one strike. (Compare with comments on Multiple-Dies in Bulletin 234 & 241. Ed. M.R.S.) The Board of Trade had a perforator which perforated a block of 16 stamps which was manufactured by Sloper. Perhaps the Pru also had one of these machines.

Discussion of the machines used brings us to the reason for the group or 0130. --- perfins. Number 0130.01 and 0130.03 (the latter not assigned its number) are recorded in the catalogue of perfins on sideways watermarked stamps so they would have come from a stamp-affixing machine which perfinned, dispensed and affixed a stamp to its envelope in one operation. I have never seen an example of 0130.02 but from the illustration in van Lint (see Fig 3) I would say that this too comes from a stamp-affixing machine. The indication is the characteristic clipped perforation on the bottom left of the illustrated stamp which is caused by the cutter which separated the stamp from the roll.



0120.02a 0120.03

Figure 5

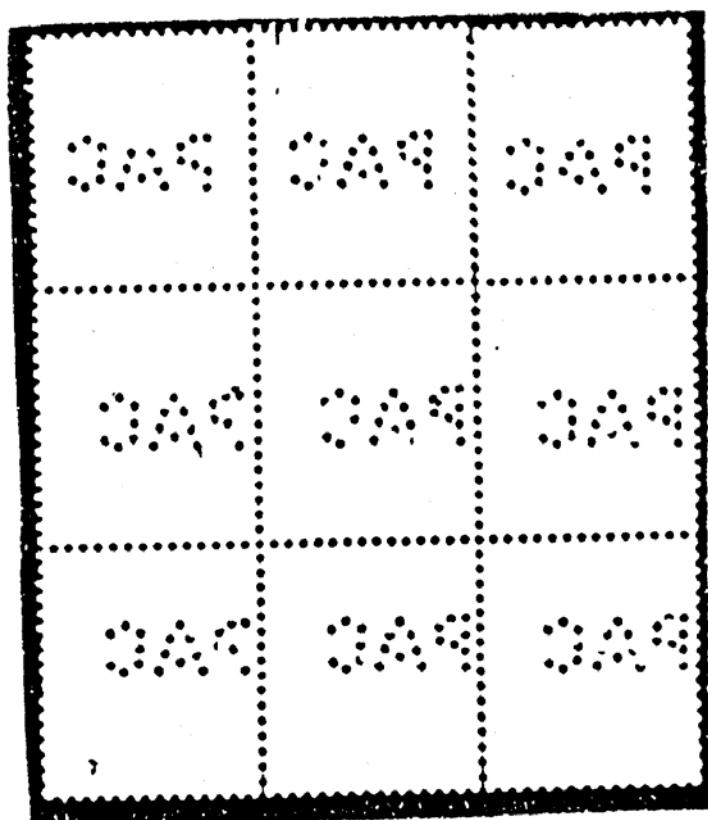


Figure 6

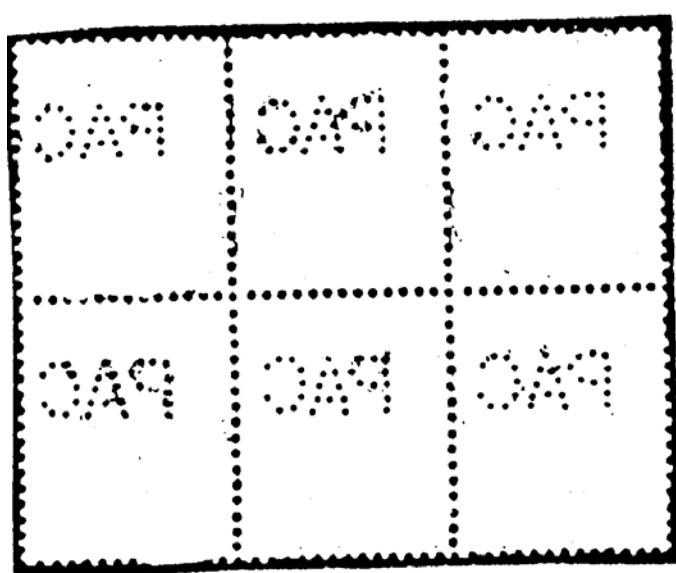


Figure 7

In some cases these machines were fed with rolls made up of stamps with upright watermarks torn from sheets. Does anyone have any examples of stamps of the 0130. -- group without sideways watermark?

In this article I have tried to show how a specialised study can be made up and you are encouraged to form your own specialised collection of perfins of the company of your choice. However we should not leave the matter there and I propose to continue with this study hopefully with the help of members, especially new members and those who have never tried a specialised study before. PAC perfins are (to say the least) cheap and there are many about so let us see how detailed a study we can develop and how many of our members we can involve. Send any information to me (new address in this Bulletin). I would also be interested in any surplus PAC perfins which any members want to dispose of. No I am not in the market to buy them as I already have more than I want but if anyone would care to donate these stamps to the cause I will distribute them to new members who want to help with this study free of charge.

A study such as this can be taken further by adding other items from the Pru and a further class worth collecting are postage stamps overprinted for fiscal use but that is another story.

Comments already raised by Part 1 of this article.

Dr. R.W. Powell points out that the Tilles Catalogue shows 9 perfins, not 8, as being identified with the Pru. (Page 4 Bulletin 241). 0120.05 in Fig. 2 is the 9th die in Tilles. With our Bulletin 234 April 1988 was an 8 page publication of his "Breaking Down a General Collection of Great Britain Perfins". In this he mentions again that 0120.04 is not from the Pru but from the Pearl Assurance Co. Ltd. I too have a cover dated 1939 with GVI 1d dark red perfinned with 0120.04 and embossed Pearl Assurance Co. Ltd

Dr. Powell adds that he has copies of 0120.04 from GV Block to QEII Machins and the dates of his Pearl covers are 9-4-32 end 22-2-38. He also has a loose 3d Olympic Games of 1948 with this perfin. Does anyone have an identified Pru cover with 0120.04? My earliest Pru cover dated 17-5-99 has 3 x 1d lilacs perfinned 0120.02. The Pru are still using perfins on most current Machins for mail from their Head and Sub Offices to the Agents in the field.

I am sure this very well thought out and documented 2 part article by Tony will have given many members food for thought, and I trust we shall have an update, on dates and stamps used, in the future.
